



Honolulu On The Move

NEWSLETTER OF THE HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

West O'ahu Awaiting Rail Project



West O'ahu Economic Development Association (WOEDA) president Roy Yonaoshi has witnessed

the recent development of major shopping centers, new roads and a UH-West O'ahu campus to complement the existing residential neighborhoods in Kapolei. But he knows the city's rail transit project is essential in linking the developing area with Honolulu in a speedy 40-minute commute.

Yonaoshi said WOEDA chose in 2006 to be a rail advocate to ensure a strong quality of life for area residents.

"While we see many businesses developing out here, they'll always be those who commute into town for work," he said. "Rail is a long-term solution to keep up with the population growth."

The rail transit project will also be an economic stimulus project to boost the struggling local economy, Yonaoshi said.

"Whereas the private sector has been slowing down in construction activity, this is perfect timing for the public sector to kick start their projects and build," he said.

While Kapolei was initially dubbed the "Second City," Yonaoshi said the nickname gives the wrong impression that it's ranked behind other communities.

"As infrastructure such as rail and UH-West O'ahu is put into place, more people will recognize this area for its own identity."

Residents Make Their Voices Heard On Rail Station Design



Photo: Waipahu residents who attended a recent workshop provided input on the appearance of their two area stations.

Aloha! Thanks to the support and ideas of residents from across the island, the City's rail station workshops are off to a great start.

More than 200 community members attended the first round of workshops in Leeward O'ahu and contributed their ideas and opinions on ground-level design elements such as the lobby and plaza, landscaping, walls and archways.

The workshops encompass six of the stations to be built in the first 6.5 miles of the guideway. In Waipahu, the stations will be at West Loch and the Waipahu Transit Center; in West O'ahu, the stations will be built in East Kapolei, at UH West O'ahu and at the planned Ho'opili complex; and on the Leeward Community College Campus.

Later this summer, the design team will share sketches and models of the rail stations at the workshops, based on the community's input. The public will have the opportunity to again

give their input on the draft designs. The schedule of workshops is:

- Waipahu community – June 3 and July 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Waipahu Intermediate School cafeteria
- West O'ahu community – June 29 and August 5 at Kapolei High School, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Kapolei High School cafeteria
- Leeward Community College – August 18 from 11 a.m. to noon

The initial 6.5-mile segment of the transit route will run from Kapolei to Pearl Highlands near Leeward Community College. The city is scheduled to break ground for the rail project at the end of the year and begin service for the first leg of the transit route in 2012.

All station workshops are free. For more information, visit the project website at www.honolulutransit.org or call 566-2299.

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Contact Us

You can reach us by calling the project hotline at 566-2299 or by submitting your comments to www.honolulutransit.org.

Call or email us if you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter or would like be removed from our mailing list.

Rail Transit: Creating Savings All Around

Honolulu's rail transit system is projected to create 10,000 jobs a year during construction. But even those not employed by the rail project will see benefits in many different ways.

Some of these "savings" by rail will benefit you in the pocketbook, while other benefits will be more intangible or assist in the bigger picture:

Those choosing to ride mass transit will save transportation costs.

Honolulu is already one of the top 10 cities in the nation in the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) list of transit savings. A family in Honolulu can save \$844 a month and more than \$10,000 a year by living with one less car and buying a monthly transit pass, according to APTA.

Less demand on your car or truck means less wear-and-tear for your vehicle, reducing your maintenance and repair costs.

Those continuing to drive will see fuel and

car maintenance savings from reduced traffic congestion because of rail.

Americans already spend 4.2 billion hours a year stuck in traffic, according to TRIP, a non-profit organization on transportation. The average rush-hour commuter spends an additional 38 hours annually – an average work week - stuck in traffic.



Traffic congestion costs American motorists \$78.2 billion a year in wasted time and fuel costs, according to TRIP.

Honolulu's rail system is expected to reduce traffic congestion by 23 percent once the entire 20-mile route is in place. Reduced traffic congestion means less idling in traffic for drivers,

which results in time savings and less wasted fuel.

"Saving" the environment by riding mass transit.

Rail is expected to take an estimated 30,000 vehicles off our roads each day. That will significantly reduce the amount of harmful greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. By using public transportation, a commuter can reduce their carbon footprint by more than two tons. Public transportation will shrink the amount of greenhouse gases generated by an individual by 4,800 pounds a year.

This is more than the combined carbon emissions reduction that comes from using energy-efficient light bulbs, adjusting thermostats, weatherizing one's home, and replacing an older refrigerator with a high efficient refrigerator.

Improved quality of life.

Something that can't be measured using figures is a person's quality of life. Any project that can shorten someone's commute time means more quality time with family and for personal activities. Now that's a "savings" that's priceless.